



Dkt. 37690-II-1-PCT-US/JPW/SHS

STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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08/485,163 Serial No.

Examiner: Eliane Lazar-Wesley

Filed

June 7, 1995

Group Art Unit: 1646

For

CD4 GAMMA2 AND CD4-IgG2 CHIMERAS

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September 10, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

SIR:

AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO MARCH 9, 2001 OFFICE ACTION AND PETITION FOR A THREE-MONTH EXTENSION OF TIME

This Amendment is submitted in response to a March 9, 2001 Office Action issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office in connection with the above-identified application. A response to the March 9, 2001 Office Action was originally due June 9, 2001. Applicants hereby petition for a three-month extension of time. Applicants have previously established small entity status. required fee for a three month extension of time for a small entity is \$445.00 and a check in this amount is enclosed. Therefore, a response to the March 9, 2001 Office Action is now due September 9, 2001. However, since September 9, 2001 falls on a Sunday, a response filed on the next succeeding day which is not a Saturday, Sunday or Federal holiday, i.e. Monday, September 10, 2001, is considered timely under 37 C.F.R. §1.7. Accordingly, this Amendment is being timely filed.

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